(c) the steps taken to improve the bilateral economic cooperation including trade ties with Nepal?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Separate Indo-Nepal Treaties of Trade and Transit have been signed on December 6, 1991.

(c) Besides the conclusion of the Trade and Transit Treaties and the agreement for cooperation in controlling unauthorised trade, several steps have been taken to streamline and liberalise the access regime for Nepalese exports to India, especially in the duty free/quota free category. A specially favourable access regime has also been established for the exports of approved Indo-Nepal joint ventures. All this should help improve Indo-Nepal trade ties substantially in the future.

[*Translation*]

Gas based Industries in Uttar Pradesh

3594. SHRI REJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of gas-based industries in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether any proposal has been received from the government of Uttar Pradesh for setting up more such industries in that State;

(c) if so, the action taken by the government in this regard; and

(d) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) Four

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Further allocations would depend on the availability of gas along the HBJ pipeline, which at present is already over committed.

[*English*]

Fertilizers to Cashew Growers at Subsidized Rates

3595. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give fertilizers to Cashew growers at subsidized rates;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the plans drawn up by the government for increasing Cashew cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Under the Central Sector Integrated Programme for Development of Cashew, a subsidy of Rs. 3000/- per has. is provided which is estimated to be the cost of fertilizers required for one hectare cultivation. The subsidy is disbursed in five annual instalments.

(c) The plans for increasing production and productivity of cashew cultivation include the following-

(i) Area Expansion with clonal planing material.